

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

(Continued from Second Page.)

ferred so much in common should, in after years, have as large a measure of mutual recompense as it was possible to secure by standing shoulder to shoulder in peaceful projects, as they had marched together on warlike expeditions.

The Spirit of Helpfulness.

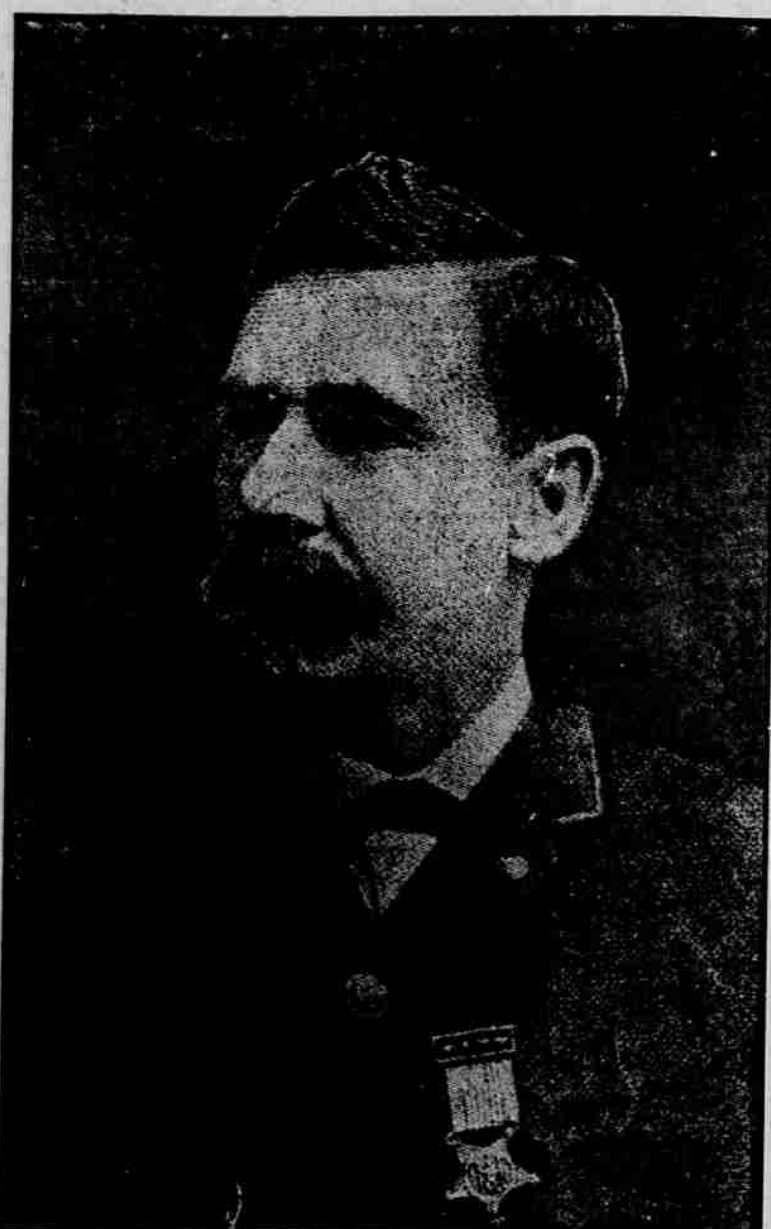
In all these veteran societies, the keynote was this spirit of helpfulness—a sentiment that had been developed by the "inductive process" during the years of "daring and suffering." In emergencies of danger and privation and sorrow each soldier had learned, as never before, how dependent is every one upon his fellow-men. Independence, in the personal sense, is an illusion of prosperity. In reality, there is no such thing as independence, but when one is in comfortable circumstances and surroundings he easily fancies that he has nothing to ask of any other man. It is trouble or peril that sends him to some one else; and then is made the unconscious confession of weakness, the tacit admission that all his arrogant assumption of self-sufficiency has been an empty boast.

This experience of a mutual dependence was one of the most startling revelations to many of those who composed the great Union army.

Strange were these friendships between men who, but for the war, would never have known of each other's existence—each in his faraway home—but here joined by ties peculiarly binding and singularly unlike the attachments of peaceful and uneventful life.

Reunion Effected.

What wonder that after all these experiences of mutual reliance, the thought of separation was swiftly followed by the thought of reunion. Could these men go back to their several homes and forget those who had been thus strangely associated with them for this brief, terrible season of danger and daring? Or would the muster of war be replaced by a muster of patriotic veterans, who might reassemble at stated intervals to keep one another reminded of what they had enjoyed or suffered together; to renew their allegiance to the principles that had actuated them, in their righteous conflict; to keep sacred the memory of comrades whose lives had sealed their bond of loyalty; more yet, to give practical proof of the sincerity of this veteran spirit, by making material provisions

WILLIAM WARNER,
TWENTY-THIRD.

shoots from which the interlacing branches of the strongest forest were ultimately to grow.

In different States, soon after the close of the war, various societies of veterans were organized for various purposes, but none of them were of more than local importance, and ceased to exist when a national organization, based upon broad principles and open to all honorably discharged soldiers, was presented.

Chaplain Rutledge's Suggestion.

Such an organization is the Grand Army of the Republic. It is probable that the Rev. W. J. Rutledge, chaplain of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteers, was the first man to suggest the idea that the soldiers so closely allied in the comradeship of the war when mustered out would naturally desire to form an association that would preserve the friendship and the memories of their common service, danger, and glory. This suggestion was made to Major Stephenson, surgeon of the same regiment, and he and the chaplain discussed it and agreed that at the close of the war they would work out some such project. The war over, the subject of a national organization of veterans formed the basis of a correspondence until March, 1866, when the two above named met in Springfield, Ill., and spent some time in arranging a ritual. Major Stephenson, however, had taken the initiative in re-

obligated in the order, before the ritual was placed in their hands to "set up," Major Stephenson acting as "mustering officer."

The first post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized at Decatur, April 6, 1866, by Major Stephenson, assisted by Captain Phelps, of the Thirty-second Illinois. The post was organized with twelve charter members, and M. F. Kanan, captain of Company A, Forty-first Illinois Volunteers, was made post commander. The charter members were: I. C. Pugh, George R. Steele, J. W. Routh, Joseph Prior, J. H. Nale, J. T. Bishop, G. H. Dunning, R. F. Sibley, M. F. Kanan, C. Reibsame, I. N. Coltrin, and Aquila Toland.

Among those who participated in the conferences in Springfield, which resulted in the State or department organization of Illinois, were Col. John M. Snyder, Dr. James Hamilton, Major Robert

ligned to be accomplished by this organization are as follows:

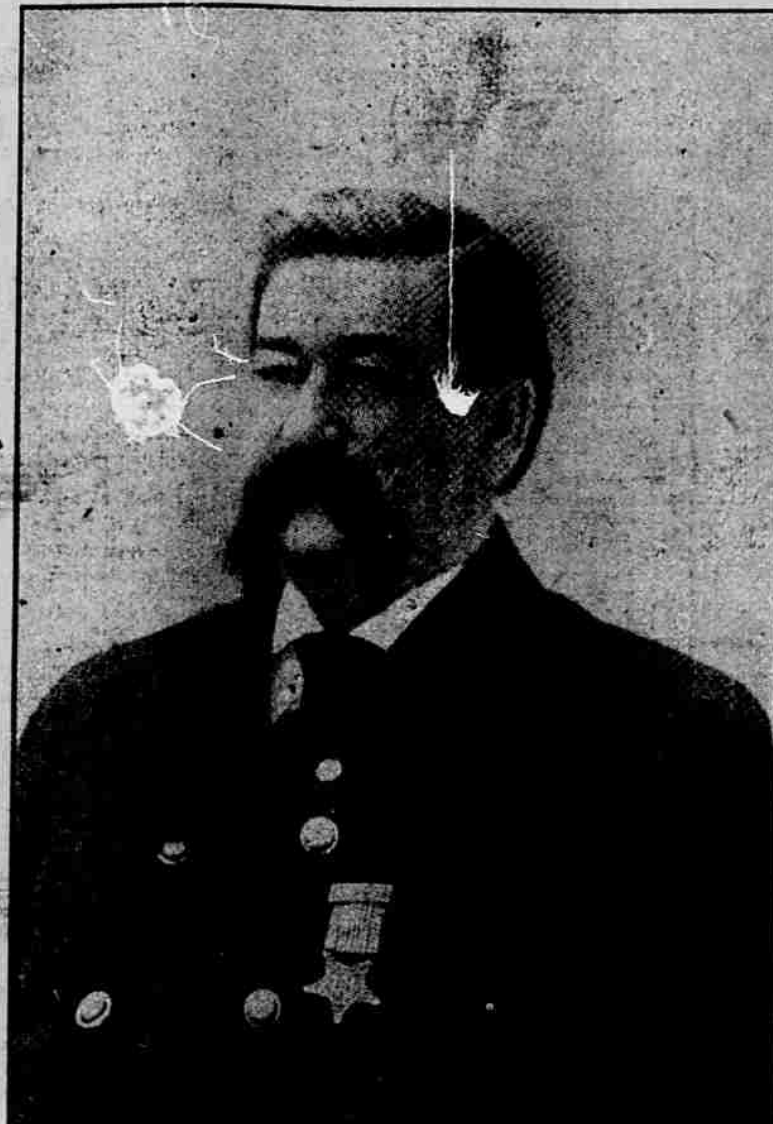
1st. The preservation of those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together, with strong cords of love and affection, the comrades-in-arms of many battles, sieges and marches.

2d. To make these ties available in works and results of kindness, of favor and material aid to those in need of assistance.

3d. To make provision, where it is not already done, for the support, care and education of soldiers' orphans, and for the maintenance of the widows of deceased soldiers.

4th. For the protection and assistance of disabled soldiers, whether disabled by wounds, sickness, old age or misfortune.

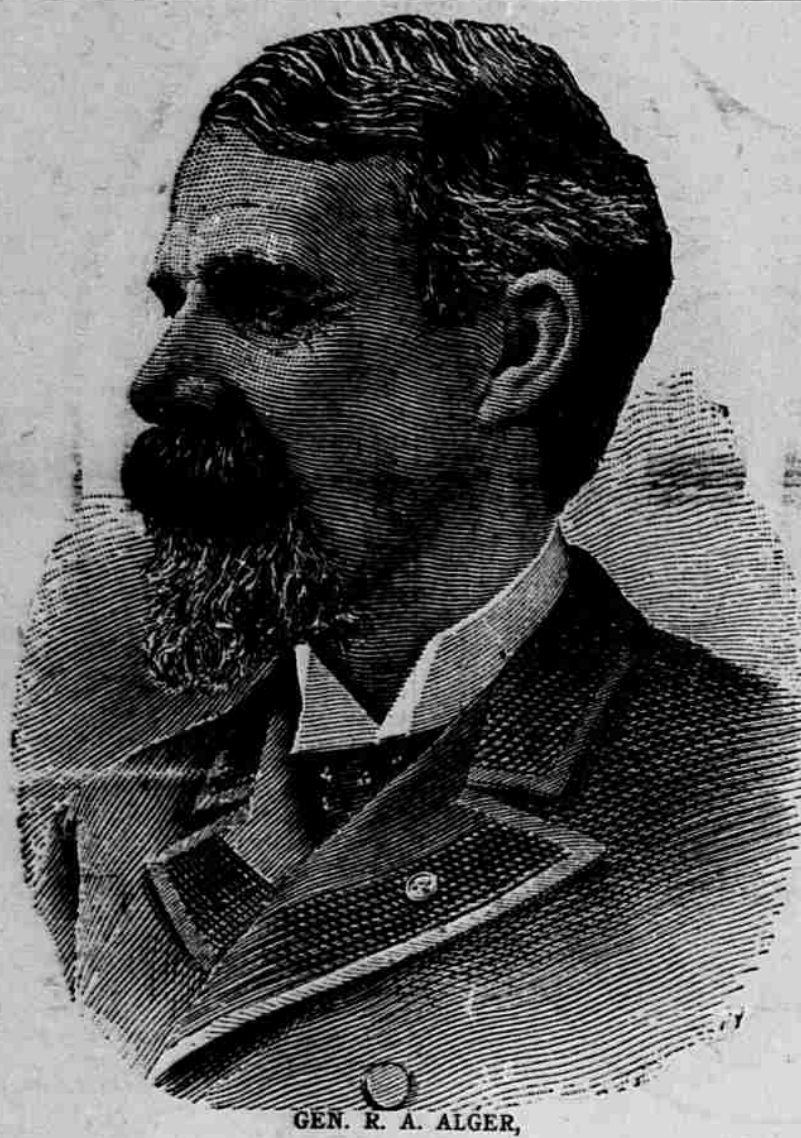
5th. For the establishment and defense of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially and politically.

THOMAS G. LAWLER,
TWENTY-NINTH.

M. Woods, Major Robert Allen, Chaplain William Rutledge, Fred L. Dean, now of Washington, D. C., Col. Martin Flood, Col. Daniel Grass, Col. Edward Prince, Capt. John S. Phelps, Capt. John A. Lightfoot, Col. B. F. Smith, Major A. A. North, Capt. Henry E. Howe, and Col. B. F. Hawkes, now of Washington, D. C. The first constitution, agreed upon in Springfield, May 15, 1866, provided for precinct organizations, to be known as posts; county organizations, to be known as districts; State organizations, to be known as departments, and the national organization, to be known as "The Grand Army of the Republic."

The Declaration of Principles adopted was as follows:

Section 1. The soldiers of the Volunteer Army of the United States, during

GEN. R. A. ALGER,
TWENTY-FOURTH.

tion for the comfort and support of the families bereft by these sacrifices, and to cultivate in the hearts and lives of the veterans themselves those tender and generous sentiments which the brutalities of war were so calculated to kill out, and which each one must revive and cherish lest he should suffer that worst result of battle strife—that retrograde step in the progress of civilization—a deadening of the finer sensibilities of his nature? Should the patriots of the Union repeat the history of other nations, demoralized by war, or should sweet charity and brotherly kindness successfully combat these perils, and the nation become purer for the baptism of fire that had consecrated her anew?

Such anxious questions filled the minds of thoughtful people as they pondered

the issues of the war. And from every quarter of the army came the significant answer to the question, as everywhere knots of soldiers planned for future meetings of their respective regiments or divisions.

Inspired by Personal Friendship.

While many different bands of veterans were projecting reunions on one or another exclusive basis, there were some who were planning the establishment of a grand comprehensive order. The impulse of personal friendship that inspired each group of comrades was an expression of the same feeling that, broadening in its application, developed into the comradeship of the Grand Army of the Republic. They were the budding

Lucius Fairchild
TWENTY-FIRST.

with a view to inculcate a proper appreciation of their services to the country, and to a recognition of such services and claims by the American people.

Not a Political Order.

The national encampment in Philadelphia, January 15, 1868, added to section 5 the following:

"Yet this association does not design to make nominations for office, or to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes."

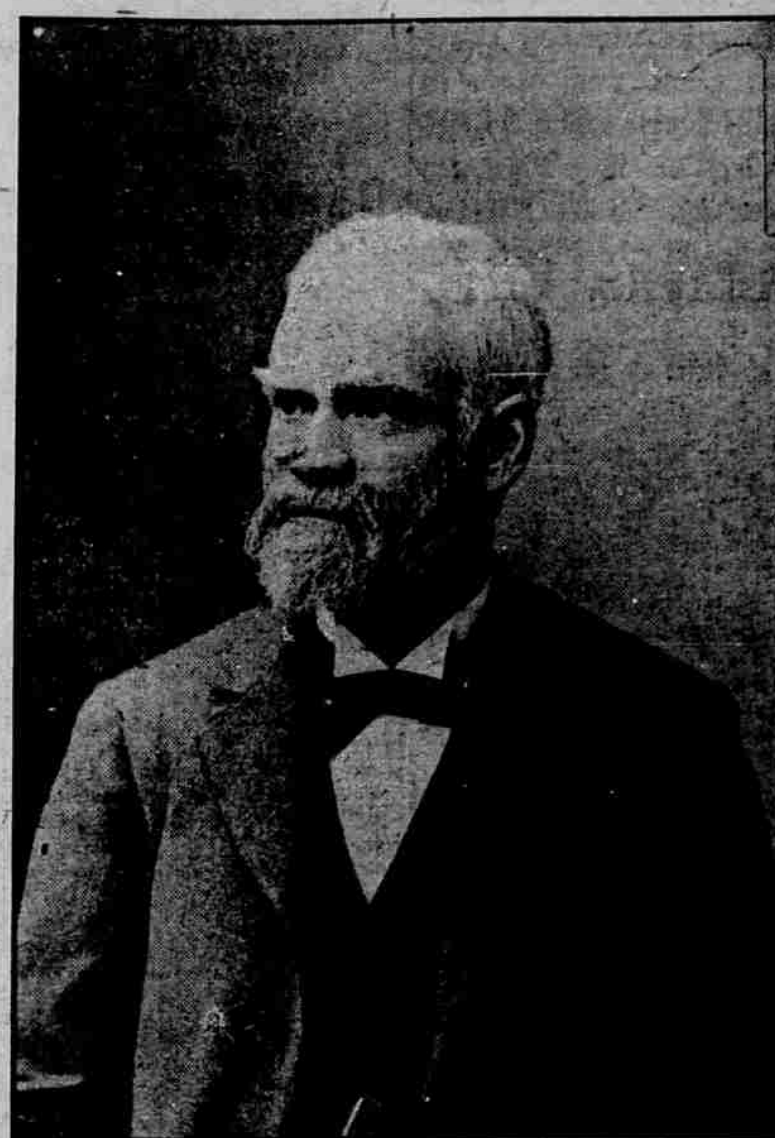
Right at this point arose the complication that so seriously interfered with the organization of the Grand Army. Each veteran was two separate characters; the same soldier was one moment a fraternal comrade, the next instant a belligerent "boy in blue." The veteran who one evening attended the meeting of the Grand Army Post, the next evening shouted himself hoarse at a mass meeting to cheer the candidate of his choice; and people reasoned this way: "The Grand Army men are managing this caucus, and therefore the Grand Army is a political scheme for controlling elections; and whereas the candidates thus urged for nominations are Republicans, therefore be it resolved that the Grand Army is a partisan club devoted to the interests of the Republican ring."

The ingenious sophistry of this reasoning beguiled a great many people usually capable of logical judgment; and the argument was used to prejudice the unthinking, and many veterans who belonged to the Democratic party declined to have anything to do with the Grand Army.

Opposition to the Grand Army.

Also, on the ground that a secret political society was a menace to free institutions, many men of all parties opposed the Grand Army, believing it to be identical with the political clubs of veterans. Even the veterans themselves did not always remember to make the distinction, and so the general public may be excused for not realizing the difference.

In vain the leaders of the Grand Army protested that it was not a political club, still less a partisan club. People persisted in regarding it in that light. The session of the National Encamp-

GEN. ROBERT B. BEATH,
EIGHTEENTH.

ment, on May 12, 1869, adopted the revised ritual and rules, and incorporated this important article:

"No officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use this organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its meetings, nor shall any nominations for political office be made."

The Grand Army Extended.

The National Encampment at Indianapolis, in 1866, added "sailors," so that section 5 read, "Soldiers and Sailors;" a few years later the clause read, "Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines," and it stands that way today.

In October, 1866, a little more than six months after the organization of the first post in Decatur, departments had

been formed in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota, and posts had been organized in Ohio, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania.

The first department convention was held in Springfield, July 12, 1866, and Gen. John M. Palmer, of Illinois, now dead, was elected department commander, much to the surprise of many, who believed that Major Stephenson should have had that honor. Work for a national organization was immediately begun, and Major Stephenson, in issuing the call for this styled himself "Commander-in-chief, G. A. R., U. S."

The First National Convention.

This national convention was launched in Indianapolis in November, 1866.

The meeting was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Stephenson, Col. John M. Snyder was made secretary, and Gen. Jules C. Webber and Major G. M. Wilson assistant secretaries. The committee on credentials reported the number of delegates present from the States as follows:

District of Columbia, 1; Illinois, 34; Indiana, 148; Iowa, 6; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 3; Missouri, 9; New York, 1; Ohio, 15; Pennsylvania, 3; Wisconsin, 7—total, 223.

General Palmer Chosen President.

Gen. John M. Palmer, of Illinois, was chosen president of the convention, and a vice president was chosen from each State. L. Edwin Dudley was made secretary, and Rev. John H. Lozier, of Indiana, chaplain.

The most important resolution adopted was one declaring that "Congress, in justice and not charity, should pass a law equalizing in a just manner the bounties of all Union soldiers and sailors," and the convention pledged itself to State and national legislation for the education and maintenance of the orphans and widows of deceased comrades and maimed brethren. They also declared that Congress ought to pass a law making it the inextinguishable duty of every citizen to defend his country in time of need, in person, and not by substitute. They also asked that all things being equal, veterans of the war of the rebellion be preferred. Officers elected were: Commander-in-chief, S. A. Hurlbut, of Illinois; senior vice commander-in-chief, J. B. McKean, of New York; junior vice commander-in-chief, R. S. Foster, of Indiana; adjutant general, B. F. Stephenson, of Illinois; quartermaster-general, August Willich, of Ohio; surgeon general, D. C. McNeil, of Iowa; chaplain, W. A. Pile, of Missouri.

Paul Vanderfont
SEVENTEENTH.

gird to the ritual some time previous. It is significant that the movement which resulted in the Grand Army of today should have started in that part of Illinois where Abraham Lincoln spent the years of his early manhood, and that the first conference should be held in the city in which he resided when elected President, and which is honored by the first monument in memory of that greatest of American patriots and statesmen. The first conference was held in Springfield, in which a score or more of Illinois soldiers participated. At the suggestion of Governor Oglesby the first ritual was printed by I. W. Coltrin and Joseph Prior, the publishers of the "Decatur Tribune."

They were both old soldiers, and were

the Rebellion of 1861-65, actuated by the impulses and convictions of patriotism and of eternal right, and combined in the strong bands of fellowship and unity by the tolls, the dangers, and the victories of a long and vigorously waged war, feel themselves called upon to declare, in definite form of words and in determined co-operative action, those principles and rules which should guide the earnest patriot, the enlightened freeman, and the Christian citizen in his course of action; and to agree upon those plans and laws which should govern them in a united and a systematic working of the grand results of the war, the fruits of their labor and toil, so as to benefit the deserving and worthy.

Section 2. The results which are de-

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TWENTY-SECOND.